FBIS DAILY REPORT

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SODECA DRAFTS CHARTER, ISSUES COMMUNIQUES

PA261935 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] The organization Central American Social Democracy, Sodeca, met in San Jose over the weekend to draft its charter and promote its membership. Although the inter-American organization was founded in 1983, last weekend's meetings were the first since the founding sessions. The social democratic parties of Panama, El Salvador, and Nicaragua are founding members of Sodeca. Nicaragua's Luis Rivas Leiva, secretary general of the Nicaraguan Social Democratic Party, was appointed its secretary general. Alvin Weeden, of the Panamanian Social Democratic Party, said that Sodeca seeks to bring together all Central American social democratic parties. He explained that despite the ample resources of the Socialist International [SI], that world organization has thus far shown no interest in creating a regional body in this area. This is incomprehensible, he observed, but noted that in any event, Sodeca disagrees with SI's support of the Salvadoran guerrilla movement and Nicaragua's Sandinist government.

At the conclusion of its sessions, Sodeca issued a communique asserting its commitment to the advancement of political goals congruent with the social democratic ideology and to the combating of all forms of dictatorship and totalitarianism, in order to achieve the establishment of full-fledged democracies in the area. Sodeca released another communique setting forth its views on the situation in each Central American country. On El Salvador, Sodeca called on guerrillas to cease their actions and take up sincere dialogue with the Duarte administration, which it urged to resume its search for a democratic solution that will lead to peace in the country. Regarding Honduras, Sodeca expressed its concern over growing militarization there and about the promotion of foreign interests by the guerrillas which could lead to a situation similar to the one in El Salvador. It expressed hope that upcoming elections in that country will help advance Honduras' developing democratization trend. On Panama, the Central American social democrats lamented that the opportunity afforded by past elections to attain the establishment of authentic democracy was trumped when the will of the majorities was not respected because of intervention by military leaders who continue as the source of real power. It also expressed concern over signs of a decision to implement the doctrine of security there, a practice that has been eliminated in many Latin American countries.

Regarding Guatemala, Sodeca stated that efforts by Guatemalan political groups to achieve democracy through presidential elections in the near future are encouraging. Regarding Nicaragua, Sodeca lamented that civil liberties and political and human rights are constantly violated by the Sandinist government, which has also ignored the call for national dialogue by Nicaraguan opposition sectors. The social democrats maintained that the Nicaraguan people are entitled to choose freely the social and political system they prefer.

Sodeca's members expressed optimism concerning Costa Rica's traditional democratic leanings, expressed through elections that will take place soon and that stand as an example to other countries in the area. They also criticized the ill-intentioned publicity drive to discredit the Monge administration, stating that it has been orchestrated by international left-wing forces. Sodeca will meet again in June in San Jose, which has been designated as the seat of this Central American political organization.

MEXICAN SECRETARY URGES OIL PRODUCERS TO ORGANIZE

FL252037 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1919 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- In order to shake the industrial superpowers' hegemony, the Latin American and Caribbean oil-producing countries should create a group for the production of capital goods and research work which would satisfy their needs and would make it possible for them to stop purchasing large amounts from developed countries. The statement was made by Secretary of Energy, Mines, and Parastatal Industry Francisco Labastida Ochoa at the conclusion of the fourth meeting of the Informal Group of Latin American and Caribbean Petroleum Exporting Countries (Giplacep).

The Mexican official stressed that with this type of action the oil producers will stop strengthening the economies of developed countries and will buttress, within their own territories, infrastructures for the production of heavy industries which in turn create sources of jobs. Labastida Ochoa affirmed that unlike developed countries, the Latin American nations do not seek an easy-going and comfortable standard of living by defending their interests, but want to attain and maintain a minimum of well-being for the majority groups of their populations. He added that the Latin American oil-producing countries seek a participation in the international arena through the premises of an equitable and fair treatment because they are nations with scarce financial resources and incipient development.

Labastida Ochoa said the Latin American nations are almost forced to improve their standard of living, even though with difficulty because at the present time the petroleum market is oversupplied and the world economy is experiencing critical situations. Likewise, he indicated that important steps have been taken to achieve the unity of countries with common interests, and cited Giplacep, formed by Ecuador, Venezuela, Mexico, and Trinidad and Tobago, as an example.

COUNTRIES OUTSIDE CONTADORA TO VERIFY PROCESS

FL270158 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Mar 85

[By Guillermo Garcia Espinosa]

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 26 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Four nonmembers of the Contadora Group will be included in the peace process, on matters of verification and control in the region, Colombia's Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo has said here. This measure was proposed, among others, by El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Honduras to the foreign ministers of Mexico, Venezuela, Panama, and Colombia, who form the Contadora Group, at the informal meeting held 15 March in Brasilia, said Ramirez Ocampo who is here on a 2-day visit.

At a press conference, Ramirez Ocampo said that the Central American countries must, according to the proposal, unanimously pick the four nations from among Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Spain, Switzerland, and Austria. The inspection would center on verifying compliance with accords on the number of military troops and foreign advisers present and the nonintervention into neighboring countries.

ALFONSIN RETURNS FROM THREE-NATION TOUR

Arrives 28 March

PY281323 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1142 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (TELAM) -- President Alfonsin arrived in our country from the Mexican capital at 0835 [1135 GMT]. He thus concludes a trip to Brazil and the United States, in addition to a visit to Mexico.

The Argentine head of state arrived at Ezeiza International Airport accompanied by the delegation which includes, among others, Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, President of the Chamber of Deputies Juan Carlos Pugliese, and acting Senate President Edison Otero.

Discusses Visit, Oil Policy

PY282312 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1259 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (TELAM) -- Shortly after returning to the country from a tour that took him to three American countries, President Raul Alfonsin this morning stated that during his tour, which he termed positive, significant talks were held both in the United States and in Mexico.

Alfonsin stated that in Mexico we agreed on a number of solutions to bilateral problems, and in the United States we were able to hold profound talks and had the opportunity to voice our beliefs on the achievements made in the economic field.

"Of course, not all the problems were solved, but I believe that we made good progress," Alfonsin told the newsmen who met him at Ezeiza International Airport. Alfonsin chatted with the press after he reassumed the presidency at 0850.

The chief of state stated that the mere opportunity for leaders to get to know each other is important. In addition, we held significant talks both in the United States and in Mexico.

Asked whether he would call on the people to cope with the serious problems troubling the country, Alfonsin responded that the call is always current and we are hoping everyone will shoulder the burden.

Concerning opposition in the country to the petroleum policy the government is seeking to implement, Alfonsin stated that this is a very clear announcement, one that was anticipated, explained, and established in the electoral campaign and in the last party convention before we assumed government. The president of the nation made this announcement on Petroleum Day in 1984, and it has been repeatedly made by the energy secretary. Therefore, it should come as no surprise. Asked whether Congress will discuss the petroleum policy issue, Alfonsin stated that he did not know. Afterward, he excused himself from answering further questions, stating that we will talk about all those issues later.

Alfonsin left Ezeiza Airport in a car and, once inside, greeted the nearly 100 Radical Civic Union [UCR] faithful waiting at the airport to welcome him. The people waved several UCR banners, among them an outstanding and quite large one which read: "You are a bull in our rodeo and a superbull in the foreign rodeo."

NEVES' CONDITION GOOD; INFECTION 'STABLE'

PY282245 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Medical bulletin read by Presidential Press Secretary Antonio Brito on President Tancredo Neves condition, shortly before 1700, place not given -- recorded]

[Text] The medical team caring for His Excellency, the president of the Republic, after examining him this afternoon, has issued the following report:

1. The patient's general clinical condition (?as well as) his psychological condition continue to be good.

2. His cardiovascular functions [words indistinct] remain normal.

3. The patient had spontaneous intestinal activity.

4. The president has taken [words indistinct] physiotherapeutical and respiratory exercises. This afternoon, he got out of his bed and walked a bit in the recuperation room.

5. The results of the byochemical blood tests undertaken (?early) in the afternoon are normal. The infection in the surgical incision remains stable.

Infection Subsiding

PY282306 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Sao Paulo -- For the first time since his third operation, President Tancredo Neves has gotten out of his bed, walked, and sat in his room for a while. Mrs Neves visited him for 1 hour. Upon leaving the hospital, she said she found the president to be in good condition.

According to the medical team caring for Neves, all his functions remain unaltered, the infection in his right lung has substantially decreased, and the infection in his surgical incision remains stable and under control. The first exams did not reveal the presence of bacteria, but doctors believe that the next exams will show the cause of the infection.

The doctors have also reported that the president's intestines began working spontaneously and that his temperature remained at around 36.5 degrees throughout the day.

CONGRESS STUDIES BILL ON RELATIONS WITH CUBA

PY281313 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0032 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Brasilia, 27 Mar (EFE) -- The Brazilian Congress ordered today the formation of a congressional committee to assess the possibility of a resumption of diplomatic relations between Brazil and Cuba.

The proposal presented by Deputy Marcio Santilli of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB], which is one of the government parties, suggesting the resumption of diplomatic and trade relations with Cuba has been broadly assessed by the national representatives.

Brazil and Cuba suspended their relations in 1964, during the Brazilian Government of President Humberto de Alencar Castello Branco, and since then they have only maintained commercial ties.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Olavo Setubal has stated that the question of Brazilian-Cuban relations is a matter of national security and will be discussed also by the appropriate organizations.

It has been learned that Brazilian Acting President Jose Sarney is for the resumption of relations with Cuba, which could be implemented by June 1985, when the Latin American Congress meets in Brasilia.

Local businessmen have stressed the importance of the resumption of diplomatic relations with Cuba to expand the Brazilian export market.

The Havana authorities have also expressed their interest in reaching trade and technical cooperation agreements with Brazil to improve the Cuban agricultural production.

SARNEY REPEALS LAWS ON INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

PY281145 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Mar 85 p 3

[Text] Brasilia -- Yesterday, Acting President Jose Sarney signed a decree repealing a secret decree signed by the previous government whereby the positions of heads of the National Intelligence Service [SNI] agencies in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, and the position of SNI deputy chief were reserved for officers with the rank of general.

The decree signed by the acting president revoked the secret Decree No 11 of 5 November 1980, and Article 2 of secret Decree No 7 of 2 October 1979, "which provide for the filling of positions of chiefs and deputy chief of the SNI agencies."

Yesterday's decree also canceled secret Decree No 13 of 19 March 1985, "whose amendment was incorrectly published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE of 20 March 1985." This decree had been denounced by Social Democratic Party leader, Deputy Prisco Viana, who charged that the new government had not changed the methods used in the past, maintaining the practice of promulgating secret decrees.

POLITICIANS, CHURCH, PRESS REPUDIATE VIOLENCE

PY281655 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0149 GMT 28 Mar 85

[By Juan Jorge Faundes]

[Text] Santiago, 27 Mar (EFE) -- Christian Democratic Party President Gabriel Valdes, a former foreign relations minister, today condemned violence as a political tool and said that the recent attacks that occurred in Chile only worsen the climate of violence in the country.

Valdes categorically repudiated the terrorist attacks which took place in Santiago and Concepcion, and he denounced those who inspire and promote this senseless violence which causes so many innocent victims as well as damage, and which only aims at intensifying the climate of violence in the country.

The archbishop of Santiago, Msgr Juan Francisco Fresno, also condemned the recent terrorist attacks, which caused the death of two militarymen in Concepcion and wounded a dozen persons in Santiago, besides causing serious property damage to the state newspaper LA NACION and several other business buildings. Now before the beginning of Holy Week Msgr Fresno urged Chileans to desist from this kind of actions which deeply hurt our country.

In turn, the vicar-general of Santiago, Msgr Christian Precht, said that the bishops are hoarse from shouting "no" against violence, but apparently their appeal has not achieved any results, because violence is subject to political decisions. Msgr Precht analyzed the causes of violence, fear and desperation, and he revealed the causes for that fear and desperation. [sentence as received]

The Chilean Journalists Association has issued a statement in which it categorically rejects violence as a means to express ideological positions or to discredit journalistic work. The Journalists Association also expresses its solidarity with the newspaper LA NACION, its reporters, and all those who were wounded in the attack.

The National Press Association [ANP] also repudiated the attack against LA NACION and said that once again the press is suffering the effects of that violence we have always condemned. The ANP statement finishes by saying that this senseless terrorist violence that does so much damage to national harmony should end forever.

Referring to the attacks, Justice Minister Hugo Rosende said that Chileans should not forget that we are at war with the terrorists, who are the armed branch of the Communist Party.

So far, no political group has claimed credit for the latest attacks.

SANTIAGO MILITARY CHIEF SAYS SITUATION 'CALM'

PY290218 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2330 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] General Rene Vidal Basauri, chief of the Santiago Garrison and Emergency Zone, has said that the curfew might be shortened since the situation in the country is normal.

Gen Vidal made this statement to the press after a meeting with the head of state, ministers, and senior police officials. He described the country's overall situation as normal and noted that efforts to help the earthquake victims are continuing.

Regarding the attack on the newspaper LA NACION, which is located near the Government Palace, Gen Vidal said that it is virtually impossible to tell on the spot that a car that is approaching has a bomb inside. He said that this type of action could happen occasionally and that efforts are being made to identify the attackers.

Regarding the alleged escalation of terrorism, in view of the recent attacks with explosives, Gen Vidal said: The situation is calm. He noted, however, that terrorist activities obviously are continuing and called on the people to help fight terrorism by reporting on those individuals involved in this line of activity. Gen Vidal concluded by saying that the curfew might be shortened.

OPPOSITION TO STAGE DAY OF DENUNCIATION 29 MARCH

PY282342 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1926 GMT 28 Mar 85

[By Albino Mallo]

[Text] Santiago, 28 Mar (EFE) -- The political and labor sectors that oppose the regime of General Augusto Pinochet have called for a day of solidarity and denunciation on 29 March.

The day of protest on 27 March sponsored by the Metropolitan Accord Board passed without incident. Marxist People's Democratic Movement [MDP], made up of the Communist Party, Socialist hard-liners, and the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR], joined the protest.

The National Workers Command [CNT], one of the organizations sponsoring the day of solidarity and denunciation, has explained that the workers intend to convey their solidarity with the victims of the 3 March earthquake.

As for the denunciation, it will focus on the situation prevailing in the country since the state of siege was decreed, its consequences, the curfew imposed on the capital, and the restrictions on the freedoms of expression and assembly.

CNT Acting President Manuel Bustos has reported that the CNT has asked to be received by Interior Minister Ricardo Garcia and Economy Minister Modesto Collados. Prior to submitting these requests, the CNT sent notes to both ministers explaining the reasons workers want to engage in a dialogue with the government.

In its note to the interior minister, the CNT suggested the enforcement of some measures that, in its opinion, may be beneficial to coexistence in Chile, such as the abolishment of the state of siege and of internal banishments and the authorization, at least temporary, of the return of all exiles. The CNT also asked that the restrictions on the media be lifted.

The workers asked the interior minister to mobilize the Armed Forces infrastructure to cooperate with the efforts to normalize activities in earthquake-stricken areas. The CNT also asked the minister that measures be enforced to facilitate the campaigns of solidarity with earthquake victims launched by social organizations.

In the note submitted to Economy Minister Modesto Collados, the workers maintained that the government must play a major and vital role in the reconstruction of the country. A mere reallocation of resources is not enough; on the contrary, the catastrophe calls for a comprehensive reconstruction plan, they said. The CNT also asked for an end to the errors of the economic policy of the last 11 years, a period during which critical situations have not been properly evaluated and have been dealt with through automatically enforced measures, as if problems could be solved with the mere enforcement of such measures. Summing up, the CNT asked the economy minister to concentrate government action on the creation of new jobs, the improvement of working conditions for the personnel hired under the minimum employment plan so that they can earn decent salaries, the readjustment of minimum salaries, and the reformulation of the unemployment insurance policy. Bustos stressed the request for an overall political change leading to the restoration of democracy, and pointed out that the workers had to submit the petitions to the ministers of the cabinet of Gen Pinochet because there are urgent problems that the government must solve.

The day of solidarity and denunciation sponsored by the CNT, the Democratic Alliance, the Socialist Bloc, and the MDP will begin with a request for material aid for the quake victims. Later, a cultural act will be staged in which the only speaker will be Manuel Bustos. A mourning session for the quake victims is also scheduled for the end of the day.

MINISTER CUADRA REPORTS ON EFFECTS OF EARTHQUAKE

PY281700 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0040 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Santiago, 27 Mar (EFE) -- Minister Secretary General of Government Francisco Javier Cuadra reported today that the overall damage caused by the earthquake that rocket Chile on 3 March 1985 totals at least $1.8 billion. This total includes $600 million in damage to public property, and a cost of more than $1.2 billion for the rebuilding of 73,000 totally destroyed houses and 133,000 damaged houses.

Cuadra stated that 25 days after the quake, the intensity of which reached 7.7 degrees on the Richter scale, several foreign experts have visited the country. He concluded by saying that this disaster is one of the most serious and most important events that has taken place lately in the hemisphere.

According to the latest report, the 3 March earthquake left a toll of 177 dead, 2,575 injured, and 980,000 people who have suffered damage to their homes.

In San Juan, Argentina, the National Institute for Seismic Warning (Inpres) has reported that the earthquake in Chile left a toll of 500,000 victims and a loss of $1.5 billion an Inpres delegation has traveled to Chile to study the consequences of the seismic movement, which was caused by the friction between the South American and Nazca plates in the depths of the Paficic Ocean.

NICARAGUA'S CARRION ON TALKS WITH MISURASATA

PA271923 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Text] Regarding the second round of talks aimed at reaching a two-party peace treaty, Deputy Interior Minister Commander Luis Carrion stated in Bogota today: We have advanced as far as resuming the talks, but there is still no specific solution to the problem of the military confrontation between the Indian organization and the Sandinist government.

Carrion, who heads the Nicaraguan delegation, said that it is expected that this round of talks will end today and a communique will be issued. In remarks to the local media, he said that the Miskitos, who are members of Miskito, Sumu, Rama, and Sandinist Unity [Misurasata], what the government wants, to find peace and a negotiated solution to the conflict in the country's Atlantic region.

URBINA LARA TO RECEIVE ASYLUM IN COSTA RICA

PA282150 Paris AFP in Spanish 2023 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Bogota, 28 Mar (AFP) -- Costa Rica has granted political asylum to Nicaraguan student Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, who since 4 March has been in Bogota after being set free by the Managua regime. The COLPRENSA New Agency, in a dispat to its subscribing newspapers, said today that it obtained this information from Olmedo Castro, general secretary of the Costa Rican Presidency.

Urbina Lara, whose arrest by the Sandinist regime almost destroyed the peace process in Central America being carrying out by the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela), will leave for San Jose in 8 days.

The newspaper report stated that the refugee must sign a document in San Jose "in which he will pledge not to take part in military or political actions against the Nicaraguan Government."

Urbina Lara, who is in Bogota on a transient visa, did not accept offers of political asylum from the Spanish and Italian Governments, saying that he preferred to be near his country. At the Costa Rican Embassy in Bogota, none of the sources consulted denied or confirmed the COLPRENSA report.

HAITIAN MINISTER REVEALS DEMOCRATIZATION PLAN

PA280234 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Text] Bogota -- In a surprise announcement, the Haitian foreign minister has disclosed a planned democratization process for his country, which has been accused by the United Nations and the OAS of violating human rights. Jean-Robert Estime, Haitian minister of foreign affairs and worship, who has begun an official 3-day visit to Colombia, told this radio network that the international reports dealing with human rights in Haiti have been untrue. He also asserted that political pluralism and legislative elections will take place shortly, as a preliminary phase in achieving a representative democracy in a country that has been ruled by the Duvalier family since 1951.

ARMY CREATES SPECIAL BRIGADE FOR CAQUETA

PA252319 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 20 Mar 85 p 1 A

[Text] Caqueta, one of the regions most affected by the guerrilla groups actions, will now have a new brigade to coordinate all the development commando units operations in that region of the country. This is the first time in the Army's history that a brigade has been created for a single department, in this case the 12th Brigade, which was formerly an operations commando unit.

Colonel Alvaro Bonilla Lopez, commander of Department No 5 of the Army General Command, explained to EL TIEMPO that this new unit will be supported by five tactical battalions. The Liborio Mejia Battalion, Juanambu Battalion, Bogota Battalion, and Cazadores Battalion, among others, will carry out an overall development campaign on different fronts, particularly highways, education, and health.

Col Bonilla explained: "Through the creation of this brigade, the Armed Forces seek to rehabilitate one of the regions that has been hit heavily by violence."

The high-ranking officer explained that, for example, Operation Commando No 12 carried out important campaigns in the construction of highways, health centers, and schools. This new military unit will have its most important operations base at the new center in Larandia, but its general command will be in Florencia. Colonel Manuel Sanmiguel Buenaventura will be the commander general.

Col Bonilla also confirmed that new battalions will be created to support the 12th Brigade, which is one of 14 brigades that the Army has throughout the country. Colonel Omar Riveros Martinez will be the brigade's chief of staff.

MAS THREATENS INDUSTRIALISTS, NEWSMEN

PA272224 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Mar 85 p 3 B

[Text] The Death to Kidnappers (MAS) movement resurfaced yesterday and threatened "to execute" several foreign industrialists and two Colombian newsmen if they do not leave the country before 7 August. In a communique MAS warned that it will kill those who murder peasants and support subversion, charging that there are "elements who seek to make fat profits in complicity with a state intelligence corps."

The group sentenced six foreign industrialists residing in Colombia and two well-known newsmen to death on the grounds that they support subversion. It said that one of the newsmen was an accomplice in the theft of the $13.5 million [from Colombian Government deposits abroad].

"We warn these stateless persons to leave the country before 7 August. By that date our organization will deal with the sponsors of subversion," the communique states, adding that the operation will be called "Patriotism."

ALLEGED FARC FORCES ATTACK SMALL TOWN

PA272302 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 24 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] A group of at least 39 men attacked the town of Puerto Valdivia, leaving 2 persons dead, police have reported. The group, apparently members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), frightened residents of Puerto Valdivia, a small town in the northern part of Antioquia Department, and after haranguing them fled toward the mountains taking provisions.

The police said they had been informed that 2 persons were shot to death during the attack on the town.

JUDGE ORDERS SMUGGLED DRUGS DESTROYED

PY282210 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 28 Mar 85 p 11

[Excerpts] Criminal Judge Tadeo Rodriguez, who has jurisdiction in Alto Parana and Canendiyu Departments, has ended a long-standing issue by ordering the destruction of the 141,890 kg, gross weight, of diethyl ether, acetone, and chloric acid that were smuggled into the country. The drugs have been stored at the National Technological and Standardization Institute (INTN).

A date will be set in the next few days for the destruction of the drugs. This decision is in opposition to the position adopted by some industries and chemical science institutes, which oppose incineration of the drugs, contending that they could be used for legal purposes under the supervision of the Public Health Ministry.

The judge's decision will, however, improve our political image, since we must not forget that the issue has provoked international reactions to the point that the U.S. Government itself noted that the drugs should be destroyed.

Judge Rodriguez' decision has received both favorable and unfavorable reactions. It should be noted that our laws on drugs state that "if the instruments used to commit the crime can be used for legal purposes, they should be auctioned instead of destroyed and the proceeds should go to the national treasury.

It is believed that the judge's decision will not be appealed, because it is taken for granted that the prosecutor will not appeal. Furthermore, no party has appeared before the court to claim the products. The drugs must be destroyed in the presence of the judge.

COLORADO PARTY COMMENTARY BLASTS ALFONSIN

PY282204 Asuncion Domestic Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 27 Mar 85

["The Voice of Colorado" commentary]

[Text] The EFE News Agency last week filed a report date-lined Washington that said Argentine President Raul Alfonsin tried to exert pressure on U.S. President Reagan to adopt a new attitude toward Central America, paritcularly toward Nicaragua, and to adopt measures to restore democracy in Chile and Paraguay.

Such inconsistency is inconceivable for a politician who wants to become a champion of peace in this part of the world. Besides being inconsistent, Alfonsin's request for noninterference in Nicaragua, on the one hand, and for interference in Chile and Paraguay, on the other, is intrusive and ambiguous.

With this attitude, the Argentine president only demonstrates that he has no notion of the continent's reality and openly shows himself a useful idiot of the atheist, unpatriotic, and bloodthirsty Communist Party, which is ever increasing its pressure on the Christian Western world.

And while Alfonsin was touring the United States, Brazil, and Mexico, the same EFE report from Buenos Aires [as heard] dated 21 March said that things were not going well in his own country. EFE reported that while Argentine President Raul Alfonsin was on his official visit to the United States to seek help for the damaged Argentine economy, social dissatisfaction was growing in Argentina.

The report further added: Argentine workers, businessmen, and agricultural producers, as well as other sectors of the economy, have been expressing their growing displeasure with the serious economic situation and inflation, which has already passed the 50 percent mark this year. Everyone is aware of the increasingly desperate situation in our sister republic, which has been suffering the blows of a fearful and uncertain destiny for too long. The effects of this situation are being felt in the flesh and spirit of the people, who have been punished with cruelty not only by adversity but by the ineffectiveness of the Argentine rulers, who have not demonstrated any capability of being able to solve their distressing problems which will only be solved by adopting respectable and consistent behavior. According to another report by the same agency, Alvaro Alsogaray, a well-known economist and politician, has harshly criticized President Alfonsin's statements. He said that while the president is defending the position of a Marxist government like the one in Nicaragua, the economic and financial situation in Argentina is becoming increasingly chaotic, as demonstrated by the current lowest standard of living ever recorded in Argentine history. Judging from news agency reports, not only is there a food and clothes shortage but, due to the high prices of these products, they are no longer available to the poorer classes. And what is worse, the number of unemployed because of the periodic closure of newspapers and factories is evergrowing.

Furthermore, the child mortality rate has reached frightening levels, and most of the victims are innocent children who die either because of endemic diseases or because they lack the basic foods necessary for growth.

The agriculture and livestock sectors can no longer supply the domestic market and during a demonstration a few days ago they accused the government of not providing technical and credit assistance, stating that the economic policy being pursued by the government is completely inadequate.

Whenever hunger, misery, and unemployment spread in a country, the situation is not at all pleasant. As former presidential candiate Italo Luder recently stated in a report broadcast by television station Channel 11 in Formosa: Although the country is making progress toward democracy, other aspects related to the Argentine people's lives have, thus far, been overlooked by the current government, especially the ones concerning the economic situation, which is becoming worse, and the promises made by President Alfonsin are, thus far, just promises.

This is the regrettable state of our neighbor, which is struggling amid economic chaos. The long-suffering Argentine people, who voted for Alfonsin in the mistaken hope that he would pull the country out of its state of social and economic bankruptcy, are the ones who have been hit very hard by the economic chaos. There is no solution in sight, and the pessimism and popular disapproval of the administrative management of the government is becoming apparent.

And, since he cannot find a solution at home, he is now looking for a way out, a catharsis, for his inevitable failure. Therefore, he has turned into a traveling president, touring Europe, the Middle East, Brazil, the United States, Mexico, and other countries delivering speeches in which he shows tremendous inconsistency, looking for coexistence with countries that are dominated by leftist Marxism, flirting with Cuba and Nicaragua, and seeking to meddle in the exclusive affairs of his neighbors while in his fatherland children are dying from hunger and the agriculture and the livestock sectors are abandoned. In the meantime, the interests of the huge foreign debt that burdens our noble sister country is continuing to grow.

TERRORISTS KILL PAMPA CANGALLO'S MAYOR

PY281500 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] A terrorist group has killed Pampa Cangallo's mayor, Gerardo Veracruz. The Political-Military Command of the security area has reported that the mayor was killed in Minacuyo, in Huamanga Province. It added that the body of peasant Gerardo (Jaragua Meneces), chairman of the Juan de Linaca civil defense group, was found in the Cachi River. The peasant leader had been kidnapped by terrorists 5 days ago while at work.

TUPAMAROS STAGE RASH OF ATTACKS IN LIMA AREA

PA290427 Paris AFP in Spanish 0412 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Lima, 28 Mar (AFP) -- A number of attacks attributed to the Tupamaros Revolutionary Movement [MRTA], rocked this capital and nearby towns tonight.

The terrorists, who traveled in an automobile, successively attacked a bank branch in Vitarte, east of Lima and the buildings of the enterprises that provide light and water to the city.

Unofficial sources reported also that the subversives tried to attack the installations of television Channels 4 and 5 but were scared away when shots were fired by police guarding the area.

It was noted that the terrorists left an MRTA flag in one of the places they attacked.

ARMED FORCES, POLICE TO SAFEGUARD ELECTIONS

PY281550 Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] The Armed Forces Joint Command has issued a communique in which it says that in keeping with the law, it is the duty of the Armed Forces to safeguard the right to vote. It adds that the Armed Forces and police will act with moderation and good sense to fulfill their duties. However, they warn that they will take decisive measures if there are disorders.

In a long communique, the Joint Command details the duties it will fulfill to guarantee the right to vote, protect Electoral Court officials, and safeguard material used in the elections. Moreover, it adds that the forces will receive orders only from their respective commands which have been established in correlation with the national security security areas.

It is added that Armed Forces and police personnel will act also as adivsers and will cooperate with elections officials at the electoral tables whenever their aid is requested. It is said that they will also help voters fulfill their duties.

The communique adds that once the scrutiny of the votes is over, Armed Forces personnel will pick up a ballot which will be submitted to their immediate superior. [sentence as heard]

BROAD FRONT'S SIERRA ON RELEASE OF PRISONERS

PA221511 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 16 Mar 85 p 16

[Part I of an interview with Geronimo de Sierra, member of the Broad Front's National Plenum, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given]

[Text] [Question] What does the release of all political prisoners mean to Uruguay?

[Sierra] Before discussing the political aspect, let me express the great emotion we all feel with the release of so many of our companions in the fight for the liberation of our country. Various Uruguayan progressive forces have suffered the arrest of thousands of their members.

Several hundred were released in recent months, while the rest were released in the past 2 weeks. They represent the best part of our homeland, which has recovered for the struggle, and that is most comforting to us.

As to the actual political significance, we must first point to the fact that this amnesty law was achieved after many years of struggle by the Uruguayan people and massive solidary support by friendly peoples and governments. Far from being an act of grace or pardon from anyone, it was a victory for our struggle and is highly significant as it disavows all the dictatorship and the so-called military justice did. For months the most conservative forces tried to block the amnesty to prevent recognition of the prisoners as fighters for liberation and justice.

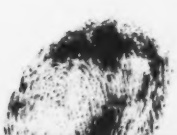
[Question] How will the former prisoners return to political life?

[Sierra] On 1 March a new stage in the political struggle opened within the framework of a state of law, partially reduced by Act 19 but in a context of real public freedoms. Now the big challenge for the progressive forces of the country, and first of all the Broad Front, is not only to consolidate and secure the freedoms recovered, but to use such freedoms to organize efforts against oligarchic and imperialist programs; the only way to solve the serious problems of the nation and overcome the shameful legacy of the dictatorship and the economic groups that supported it.

The prisoners are already rejoining their parties and the great coalition that brings them together in the Broad Front to rebuild the popular forces politically and structurally, to become a great reconstruction factor in the nation. Not just any reconstruction, but one to attack the structural causes that led to the dictatorship and the people's misery and degraded our national culture.

The general amnesty and the freedom of all prisoners thus becomes a great encouragement to help meet the task ahead. We still suffer from the painful wound of all our dead and all the missing prisoners. We also must face the unpleasant but necessary task of struggling for justice and the punishment of all those responsible for the crimes against humanity and the squandering and theft of public funds.

To build the free and socialist country for which we are fighting is not a 1-day task, but these victories by our people are great steps toward that objective.



PRC'S GU MU BEGINS 5-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT

FL281825 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1638 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 28 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- PRC State Council member Gu Mu arrived in this city last night. He is paying a 5-day visit to Mexico during which he will meet with President Miguel de la Madrid and various Mexican secretaries. The Chinese official will also visit the National Museum of Anthropology, the San Juan Teotihuacan archaeological zone, and the cities of Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, and Tijuana, Baja California.

Next Monday, he will conclude his visit in Tijuana and will travel to San Diego, California.

SEPULVEDA SAYS COUNTRY BEING SLANDERED

PA262227 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 23 Mar 85 p 4

[Text] Guadalajara -- Foreign Relations Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda in a speech before the Jalisco state legislature here Friday struck out at what he called an "unfortunate and unjust slander campaign abroad against Mexico." His remarks appeared aimed at recent criticism of corruption in government anti-drug operations.

Mexico has been harshly criticized by U.S. officials for a slow response on the kidnap-murder case of Drug Enforcement Administration agent Enrique Camarena Salazar.

THE NEW YORK TIMES in an editorial Friday that apparently was timed to coincide with the visit of Mexican Attorney General Sergio Garcia Ramirez to Washington for talks with U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese also harshly criticized the Mexican Government for corruption in its drug programs. The editorial, entitled "Mexico Where's Your Pride?" accused Mexico of being "reluctant to share the alarm" over increased drug activity in the country.

Sepulveda said the attacks are unjustified. Speaking specifically of the Guadalajara community, he said: "We cannot accept that because of isolated criminal conduct people are trying to discredit a community with solid national traditions whose men have achieved universal prestige and are the pride of the culture and moral strength of the Mexican people."

He said of the drug situation: "The battle against crime has in our times presented new and more complicated challenges. We are facing new and heretofore unknown types of crime, and finding a solution to them, as experience has shown, isn't easy. This is even more the case when the criminal conduct, as in the case of drug trafficking, involves well-organized criminal forces with large amounts of resources and international connections."

The foreign relations secretary was in Guadalajara as the representative of President De la Madrid to sign a joint development agreement between the state and federal governments. The agreement, like all such now being implemented with the states, transfers additional federal funds to the state for specific development projects. Sepulveda termed the agreement is another step in Mexico's decentralization plan. "Federalism now has a new relevance these days," Sepulveda said.

"We are sharing goods and services, promoting development and distributing with justice the costs and benefits of economic and social progress. The development agreements are ideal for transferring resources to the states and attending adequately to priority needs," he said.

Mexico's economic crisis continues to be severe, Sepulveda said, but he stressed that it does not constitute a threat to Mexico's institutions.

"Despite the severe effort at economic reordering that Mexicans have carried out in the face of this adverse situation, the country still has not returned to a desirable rate of growth. Investment, production and employment are still deficient. An inflation which has yet to let up despite unquestionable advances continues to hurt the purchasing power of many Mexicans," Scpulveda said. He also took note of problems due to high interest rates, protectionism abroad and uncertainty in the oil market.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RETURNS FROM WASHINGTON

PA251600 Paris AFP in Spanish 1630 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Mar (AFP) -- Upon returning from Washington last night, Mexican Attorney General Sergio Garcia Ramirez said that at no time has Mexico considered the participation or intervention of foreign police institutions in Mexico to help with the drug trafficking problem. Garcia Ramirez, who met with White House Counselor [title as received] Edwin Meese, said that "there will be no intervention, other than that stipulated in our laws."

Garcia Ramirez said that as a result of his talks with Meese, the cooperation between the Mexican and U.S. Governments and the mutual flow of information to fight drug trafficking -- "an international crime affecting both countires" -- will be intensified.

Meanwhile, in Guadalajara (the second largest city in Mexico), for the first time in a public speech, Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda criticized what he termed "a regrettable and injust defamatory campaign, which is both offensive and slanderous," concerning the drug trafficking activities in Mexico.

LUGO GIL LEAVES FOR TALKS WITH U.S. LEGISLATORS

FL251924 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1805 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 25 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The issues of border friction between Mexico and the United States over the past few months, migrant workers, and drug trafficking will be the main topics of discussion at the forthcoming interparliamentary meeting between the two countries.

Mexican Legislator Humberto Lugo Gil left yesterday for Washington to discuss the coming bilateral event and to discuss a location for the event, which will be held during the first 2 weeks of May in Mexico.

The Chamber of Deputies' Grand Committee has invited leaders of opposition parties to designate a representative to attend the traditional meeting between legislators from the two countries.

Lugo Gil will meet in Washington with Republican Majority Leader Robert Doyle, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee Richard Lugar, and Democrat Majority Leader James Wright.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH ZIMBABWE

FL251850 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1815 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 25 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The Governments of Mexico and Zimbabwe have decided to establish diplomatic relations as of today, Mexico's Foreign Ministry has reported. It added that the two countries will maintain diplomatic relations at the ambassador level and that they will follow UN Charter-based principles of equality and noninterference in the internal affairs of other states.

CRUDE OIL PRICES TO REMAIN UNCHANGED

FL260146 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0120 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The Mexican Committee for Petroleum Foreign Trade (COCEP) agreed today to maintain the same prices for export crude in April as it has been in March. Isthmus type crude will continue to be $27.75 and Maya type to be $25.50.

COCEP is headed by Pemex Director General Mario Ramon Beteta, and includes among others, representatives from the Secretariats of Energy, Mines and State Industry, and Finance and Public Credit.

PRESIDENT DESIGNATES NEW EDUCATION SECRETARY

FL252004 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1829 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Mexico City, 25 (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico's President Miguel de la Madrid this afternoon designated Miguel Gonzalez Avelar the new secretary of education, it was officially announced here. Gonzalez Avelar replaces Jesus Reyes Heroles who died last Monday in Denver, Colorado, of a pulmonary illness.

PSUM DEMANDS NEW ELECTORAL SYSTEM, ECONOMIC REFORM

PA211900 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 7 Mar 85 p 4

[By Roberto Vizcaino]

[Texd] It has been reported that yesterday the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico, PSUM, demanded that the government scrupulously respect the freedom of organization. The PSUM also demanded a new electoral system that allows all parties to organize and supervise elections. In addition, the party demanded that the government prevent the use of government funds to finance political campaigns, such as those of the Independent Revolutionary Party.

The demand was issued by Ivan Garcia Solis, PSUM deputy from Mexico City, when he delivered the official documents to register the 40 candidates of his party for the positions of federal deputies in as many districts in Mexico City. In addition, Garcia demanded respect for the efforts of campaign workers, who are constantly attacked and their activities are rendered useless, thanks to the complacency of federal and electoral authorities. Garcia indicated to Fernando Elias Calles, under secretary for government and technical secretary of the Electoral Federal Commission, that state resources are even used for this action.

Garcia said that the PSUM will center its campaign on seeking democracy and socialism and added that, for this reason, the party will struggle for a change in the system. He added that only in this way can civilized political and electoral campaigns be carried out in Mexico. Garcia also said that the other main focus of the PSUM campaign will be on efforts to effect an in-depth change in the economic policy that today leans on the misery and impoverishment of the majority.

Regarding Mexico City, he said that efforts will be made toward democratic urban reform to enable the majority to be able to determine the type of government that they want.

Later, he stressed the personalities of four of the candidates registered yesterday. Valentin Campa, Arturo Whaley, Arnoldo Martinez Verdugo, and Demetrio Vallejo. He said that he did not mention the rest because the list was too long and all candidates were likewise outstanding. The list presented included the eight common candidates (of various leftist parties and organizations), including Campa, Manuel Terrazas, Martinez Verdugo, Cuauhtemoc Amezcua, Jesus Trapaga, Gonzalo Rojas, and Consuelo Solis.

COCINA PROPOSES SOLUTION TO COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS

PA211831 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Mar 85 p 7 B

[Paid advertisement by the Coordinating Board for National Civilianization, Cocina -- date not given]

[Text] Cocina appeared on the Panamanian public scene as a movement to clean up public administration. It gathered, the people's decisions into a 4-point program: the rejection of tax measures, the clean-up of public administration, the recovery of ill-gotten state assets, and the drastic reduction of the Defense Forces budget. Cocina forced the central government, through the unity of all Panamanians, to abolish Law No 46 and the substitute tax law. Now, the national government, ignoring the people's will, has established a new fiscal package and in addition, is increasing corruption and squandering in disregard of Cocina's four points.

In view of this situation, Cocina presents, as an alternative solution to this agonizing crisis, and the reaffirmation of our civilianization and nationality, through:

1. Reorganizing the juridical order with a view to establishing a civilian government subject only to the people's will.
2. Significantly reducing the budget of the National Defense Forces, making it a national, professional, and nonparticipating [no deliberante] police force to be subordinated to the executive branch.
3. Laying the groundwork for economic development that will allow us to have true economic independence which is the only way to obtain national sovereignty.
4. Establishing the priorities of Panamanians, channeling resources and efforts toward providing their basic needs (health, food, housing, clothing, education, and transportation).
5. Increasing the efforts to achieve a Latin American unity that allow us to join our efforts in the struggle against antinational forces.

There cannot be a decent, serious, and permanent solution to the crisis as long as the military clique remains in power.

Cocina urges political, labor, union, business, peasant, and student groups, as well as all Panamanians to take firm stands. The struggle is under way between the forces of honesty and those of dishonesty and between the national forces and the antinational ones.

[Signed] Dr Mauro Zuniga, secretary general of the Association of Doctors, Dentists and Related Professionals of the Social Security Institute
Dr Maria V. de Arias, president of the National Medical Association
Ada de Gordon, coordinator of the Authentic Independent Teachers Movement
Nestor Mendez, president of the Association of Professors
Rogelio Douglas, Association of Private School Educators
Carlos Herrera, Center of Law Students
Dr Octavio Mena, president of the Panamanian Association of General Practitioners
Dr Felix Dormoi, president of the Saint Thomas Hospital Specialists

BRIEFS

DROUGHT CAUSES CATTLE DEATHS -- Carlos Carrizo, president of the National Cattlemen's Association, has reported that hundreds of cattle are dying as a result of the drought. He said that the situation is critical and maintained that the national government must take urgent measures to prevent further losses. [Summary] [Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 23 Mar 85 pp 1, 22 PA]

BELIZE

UDP WINS OVERWHELMING MAJORITY IN TOWN ELECTIONS

FL281428 Belize City Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] The United Democratic Party [UDP] has won an overwhelming majority in the town board elections and the Belize City Council by-election held yesterday, Wednesday March 27. The (?new Belize) UDP won the four seats in the Belize City Council by-election and all seven seats in the following towns: Corozal, San Ignacio, Santa Elena, Benque Viejo del Carmen, and Punta Gorda.

It has also won six seats in Orange Walk town with the People's United Party [PUP] winning the other seats. In (Danriga), the PUP won six seats and the UDP one. In San Pedro town, Ambergris Key, the seven independent candidates, now known as the San Pedro United Movement, won all seven seats.

The voter turn out in the elections was as follows: In Belize City, out of 23,404 voters, 10,375 voted, or an approximate 44.3 percent. In Corozal town, out of a total of 3,012 registered voters, 2,193 voted for an approximate 72.8 percent. In Orange Walk town, out of 4,426 votes, 3,145 were cast or approximately 71.1 percent or an approximate 56 percent. [sentence as heard] In Benque Viejo del Carmen, out of 1,477, 961 were cast or an approximate 65.4 percent. In (Danriga) town, out of 2,865 votes, 1,595 votes were cast or an approximate 55.6 percent. In Punta Gorda, out of 1,019 votes, 760 were cast or an approximate 70.2 percent. And in San Pedro, out of 648 votes, 548 were cast or an approximate 84.5 percent.

Esquivel on UDP's Strength

FL282228 Bridgetown CANA in English 2117 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, March 28, CANA -- The ruling United Democratic Party (UDP) won control of all but two of Belize's town boards and made a clean sweep of city council seats in elections yesterday, according to results the authorities released today.

In by-elections, the UDP retained the four Belize City Council seats vacated by its members after they had successfully contested the December 14 general election.

In other polling, the party increased the number of town boards under its control from three to five.

The People's United Party (PUP) of former Prime Minister George Price took control of the sixth and independent candidates the seventh -- the new township of San Pedro, Ambergris Key.

The PUP had been in control of three town boards since the last local government poll in 1981.

Commenting on yesterday's election, Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel said: It is a statement that the people are satisfied with the decision they made on December 14. We have consolidated our strength, and by and large we expected this.

The authorities reported a 70 per cent turnout for the town boards election and one of 44 per cent for the by-elections. Full fledged city council elections will be held next year.

COSTA RICA

MONGE DENIES U.S. SETS CONDITIONS FOR AID

PA281505 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge has reiterated that the aid that the United States has been giving to Costa Rica is not subject to conditions. He made this statement during a ceremony in which the Agency for International Development granted a 1-billion colones credit to improve coffee crops. Monge said that he will repeat, as often as necessary, that the aid received from the United States has never been given under any conditions. He added that it is not true that the United States asked us to restore the army, reestablish the military, or become involved in the armed conflicts in Central America. He emphasized that Costa Rica has received vast, generous, and firm assistance.

Monge said that it is also false that the United States wants to impose on us a liberal scheme, through the reorganization of our economy, in exchange for its aid. He reiterated that the United States has not requested or demanded that we do this or that in exchange for assistance. He said proof that it is not true is when the economic aid is sent to a cooperative as all institutions in the country are the main tool for the economic democratization we have. [sentence as heard]

OFFICIAL TO VISIT U.S. TO RENEGOTIATE IMF DEBT

PA280110 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Text] Federico Vargas Peralta, minister counselor for foreign debt, is going to Miami to negotiate a $75-million loan. Vargas Peralta will renegotiate the foreign debt the country has with 235 banks and make arrangements to obtain a $75-million loan based on an agreement reached with the IMF. Vargas Peralta will renegotiate the due date of interests and capital for 1985 and 1986. The final renegotiation agreement should be signed by the 3d week in April according to talks being carried out with the creditor banks.

GUTIERREZ ON NICARAGUAN PROTEST, U.S. MANEUVERS

PA290527 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Costa Rica has asked the Sandinists to conduct its relations with good sense. Upon rejecting the charges contained in a protest note from the Sandinist government, in which it accuses our country of permitting attacks on border posts from our territory, specifically citing the event of 18 March, the Costa Rican Government asked the Managua regime to conduct its relations with good sense.

The note from Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, which was delivered to the Nicaraguan Embassy this afternoon, said that a change in attitude by that government is necessary in order for its relations with Costa Rica to be conducted with good sense and propriety. It warned that international law is not meant to be used in a capricious manner, but is a set of rules to regulate peaceful coexistence among nations.

Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez regretted that in the past the Nicaraguan Government misuses international law and by adapting it to false circumstances, and employing it as a disguise to hide questionable events from international opinion. Gutierrez said that the message that prompted this reply is undeniable proof of what he is saying, and reitereated his desire for a change in the attitude of the Nicaraguan leaders.

Gutierrez also pointed out to the Sandinist government that it is almost impossible to attack the San Juan del Norte border post from Costa Rican territory because heavy weapons would be required. It is well known that the Costa Rican Civil Guard protects the border area, and that they do not have the heavy equipment that the Sandinist Army has, the foreign minister said in his reply to the protest note from the Sandinist government. The foreign minister warned that the charges made are unfounded and that even ranking officials of the Nicaraguan Government have recognized that the Sandinist Army does not have control over the country's southern territories, which have been taken over by rebel groups. Costa Rica once again rejected the Sandinist government accusations and reiterated its decision not to interfere in the internal affairs of any country and not to allow rebel groups to use Costa Rican territory for warlike actions against any other country.

The foreign minister also denied the possibility of a U.S. military invasion of the Central American region. The head of Costa Rica's foreign policy said that the possibility of an invasion in Central America is only discussed by the Sandinists, not by any U.S. official. To speak of a military invasion similar to the one last year in Grenada is totally out of the question, although there are some persons who insist on speaking about it, the foreign minister said. Regarding the military maneuvers by the United States and Honduras or any other country, Foreign Minister Gutierrez said it is a bilateral issue. Asked if the military maneuvers will affect the peace process prompted by the Contadora Group, he answered that the Contadora Group peace document does not contain any regulations regarding military maneuvers, because such matters are decided through bilateral agreements between the countries. Therefore, when two nations decide to carry out this type of maneuver, it is their sovereign right, to do so, Foreign Minister Gutierrez said.

GUTIERREZ ON VERIFYING CONTADORA DOCUMENT

PA280346 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has stated that supervision and control functions under any agreement reached by the Central American countries on the basis of the Contadora Document must be performed by a regional body of countries selected through consensus by the countries concerned.

[Begin recording] According to our proposal on the statute of the supervision and control commission, this role must be fulfilled by countries selected through consensus by the Central American countries. Several (?proponents) have been mentioned. At any rate, however, this cannot be discussed until there is a statute. (?That is to say), the important thing at this moment is to approve the statute of the supervision and control commission, which I hope will be accomplished at the meeting to be held in mid-April in Panama. [end recording] Gutierrez said that recourse to the United Nations is viewed only as a last resort by President Monge's government.

Regarding Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, the foreign minister confirmed President Monge's statement to the effect that Costa Rica will grant him asylum if he guarantees that he will not take part in the armed struggle against Nicaragua.

EL SALVADOR

DUARTE SENDS NOTE TO IAPA ON GOVERNMENT PUBLICITY

PA271433 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 26 Mar 85 pp 3, 46

[Text] Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte sent a note to IAPA Chairman Maximo Gainza yesterday.

The note is in response to an IAPA resolution related to the use of government publicity "to reward or punish the media."

The text of Duarte's telex to IAPA in Miami follows:

Attention Mr Maximo Gainza, IAPA chairman, Miami, Florida:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your telex dated 20 March advising me of the resolution approved by the IAPA Board of Directors during its recent meeting in Panama City. I consider it pertinent to make the following remarks:

1. Just as IAPA, the government I head opposes the use of official publicity to reward or punish the media. During my term, government institutions have not practiced this and will not practice it. The charges presented by Mr Altamirano to IAPA are not substantiated by proof.

2. I can tell you that with the exception of LA PRENSA GRAFICA, El Salvador's most widely circulated and read newspaper, no other media has received more government publicity than EL DIARIO DE HOY. Mr Altamirano is well aware of this.

3. In view of this and of the absense of discriminatory practices regarding the distribution of government publicity items, I ask: What is Mr Altamirano after?

4. We regret the misleading nature of the headlines printed by EL DIARIO DE HOY to introduce the report on IAPA's resolution. Enclosed please find copies of the headline and the corresponding report used by Mr Altamirano.

As president of the Republic I hereby reassert my full respect for freedom of the press and my rejection of any kind of pressure that diminishes it. I consider the request included in the IAPA resolution regarding the government that I head as unfair and groundless because my government has always maintained, and will always maintain, the democratic principle included in our Constitution on the free expression of thoughts.

Yours truly, Jose Napoleon Duarte, president of the Republic

GUERRILLAS ATTACK CENTRAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS

PA282137 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Report by Raul Beltran]

[Text] The following is a report by the Press Committee of the Armed Forces [Coprefa] of El Salvador.

[Begin recording] At 2000 today, terrorists acting in line with a plan to disrupt elections in our country attacked the general headquarters of the National Police with Chinese RPG-2 rockets damaging the east side of the building. A second rocket fell in the street and injured four policemen -- an officer and three detectives. Three civilian passersby were injured. One of the civilians was a woman who has lost both her legs as a result of the explosion. All the injured people were taken immediately to the military hospital. Three destructive attacks by terrorist groups against the civilian population are condemned everyday. This has been a last minute report issued by Coprefa. [end recording]

YSU and its news service later made contact with National Police officers to learn the details of this attack carried out at 2000 last night against the National Police Central Headquarters. Here is the report:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] To expand on the information provided by Coprefa, we have made contact with a National Police officer to obtain more details on the actions carried out by the leftist groups in San Salvador

[Question] Officer, what has been the result and what is the situation at National Police Central Headquarters.

[Unidentified officer] We are keeping calm. At 2000 there were two explosions caused by RPG-2 fire. The explosions took place on 8th South Avenue at the installations of the Central Headquarters. The impact did not cause much property damage [words indistinct], thank heavens, this took place last night and there were no children around. Fortunately, we did not have a tragedy. Regarding casualties, three civilians were injured, including a woman who will probably have both of her legs amputated; a man died, and the third is being treated in the hospital.

[Question] Is the deceased a civilian or a member of the police force?

[Answer] A civilian.

[Question] It has been reported that a noncommissioned officer and three detectives were also wounded by the explosions.

[Answer] We have two members who were passing by the area where the RPG-2 rockets fell.

[Question] Officer, is there any information on what part of the city the rockets were fired from? Or were the attackers in vehicles?

[Answer] According to the information we have, the rockets came from the corner in front of Tropigas, on 8th and 2d Oriente Street. [end recording]

FMLN Claims Responsibility

PA290024 Paris AFP in Spanish 2236 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Mar (AFP) -- The FMLN today claimed responsibility for the attack last night on the National Police Central Headquarters in downtown San Salvador. Radio Farabundo Marti carried a report stating that the operation was carried out by units of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade, pointing out that "the FMLN is operating deep in the enemy's rearguard" and that "guerrilla fire is reaching the dens" of the military corps in the capital.

The official report issued by the Army says that the rebels used Chinese RPG-2 rocket launchers during the attack which left "minor damage" on the building's structure and several injured. The FMLN insists that it inflicted "several casualties" and that its forces sabotaged several radio patrol vehicles. Radio Farabundo Marti also mentioned the commemoration of 15 years of armed struggle on 1 April.

Meanwhile, the other rebel station, Radio Venceremos said that the guerrilla forces are ready to attack the troops patrolling the roads, and are therefore, asking the drivers to stop using the roads. As of today, the FMLN ordered another suspension of traffic on highways, which so far has been almost normal.

FMLN GUERRILLAS CHALLENGE COL SIGIFREDO OCHOA

PA280118 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 27 Mar 85 p 74

[Text] Five mayors' officers were destroyed 2 nights ago by terrorists who have also challenged Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa to try to dislodge them from Tejutla, Chalatenango Department, which remains under their control. the mayors' offices destroyed, together with their civil archives, were in : Concepcion de Oriente, El Sauce, and Yucuaiquin, La Union Department; San Matias, La Libertad; and Tejutla, Chalatenango. To date, 24 mayor's offices have been destroyed throughout the country. No victims were reported during the last five occupations of towns by the terrorists.

During the attack on San Matias the terrorists also destroyed the National Administration for Telecommunications [ANTEL] offices, the town's police headquarte s, and the offices of the justice of the peace. Residents of the area said that about 800 terrorists invaded San Matias from three different points at approximately 0100 yesterday. After firing several shots they occupied the town, forcing the residents to leave their beds and attend a meeting at the plaza where they were told of the "electoral farce to be held on 31 March." Some residents said that after the meeting the subversives burned the government offices and left the town about 2 hours later.

Regarding the attacks on the other towns in La Union and Chalatenango Departments, it was said that the rebels also destroyed the ANTEL office there.

Regarding the challenge by the rebels to Col Ochoa to dislodge them from Tejutla, the rebels told a San Salvador radio station that they will remain in Tejutla, waiting for Col Ochoa. Col Ochoa is the commander of El Paraiso garrison and in the past few weeks has dislodged rebels from several important positions they had controlled. The terrorists added that they have about 800 men holding Tejutla.

HONDURAS

SUAZO SAYS CONGRESS DISMISSAL OF JUDGES UNLAWFUL

Congress, Suazo Trade Charges

PA290036 Paris AFP in Spanish 2319 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 28 Mar (AFP) -- It has been officially reported that President Roberto Suazo will announce drastic measures over a national radio network in response to the serious conflict created by the confrontation between the legislative and judicial branches. Last night the Congress approved an investigation of the Supreme Court and a report on various irregular cases for which some magistrates "will have to give an account." The court approved an appeal based on grounds that the investigating committee acted unconstitutionally and has reiterated that none of the magistrates will testify before the committee that was created a week ago at the request of Efrain Bu Giron, Congress president, who was reacting to a judicial accusation involving him in a supposed conspiracy against the government.

Bu Giron has been in conflict with President Suazo, who supports presidential candidate Oscar Mejia Arellano, chosen at an assembly that edged out the followers of the congressional president himself and Jose Azcona.

On announcing that the radio address will take place today, the press secretariat alluded to "the serious constitutional violations committed by some deputies."

The majority bloc of deputies -- those from the opposition National Party as well as the followers of presidential candidates Bu Giron and Jose Azcona, who are dissident liberals -- are trying to restructure the Supreme Court in a step that, according to several politicians, would violate the law. Their main objective would be to replace the court representative on the National Elections Tribunal, whose vote is decisive in determining that organization's policies.

While President Suazo is giving his radio address, the antiterrorist squad from the "Cobra" Battalion posted in front of the Supreme Conrt building since 1300 today will remain at its posts.

'State of Siege' Possible

PA290236 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 0048 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Interview with Ubodoro Arriaga, secretary of state for the Presidential Office, at the end of an emergency meeting of the Council of Ministers; questioners not identified -- live]

[Text] [Arriaga] The meeting was convoked by the president to inform the ministers on some constitutional duties.

[Question] Do you take for granted the appointment of a new Supreme Court? What have been your conclusions?

[Arriaga] At the moment, I don't know whether the Congress has completed its sessions [words indistinct] difficult, Articles 304 and 305 of the Constitution.

[Question] What measures could the government take to prevent the crisis caused by restructuring the Supreme Court from worsening?

[Arriaga] According to the Constitution, the Supreme Court is restructured only when magistrates resign or when there are grounds for it. In this case, magistrates have been dismissed without sufficient constitutional grounds. Therefore, the Constititufion empowers the president to keep constitutional order and the integrity of the government branches so that the electoral process can continue in the country.

[Question] Will the Council of Ministers session continue? What decisions have been made?

[Arriaga] No, the Council of Ministers will not continue in session. The ministers were called by the president only so he could report to them on the current situation so they could be informed regarding the consequences that might follow.

[Question] Is it likely that the government will decree a state of seize to end this crisis?

[Arriaga] A state of seige could be declared if the situation becomes more difficult because the Constitution that rules the country also empowers the executive branch to declare the state of siege. Such a situation might occur as to make this decision necessary.

[Question] There is no doubt that with the participation of the executive branch the situation in the country becomes difficult and two state powers, the executive and the judicial have confronted the legislative branch.

[Arriaga] The problem lies in the Constitution ruling the actions of the three state branches. That is to say, no single power [words indistinct] and no single power is above law.

The Constitution is above us all, the Congress, the Supreme Court, and the executive branch. All of us have to abide by it and enforce it. The representatives of the various branches pledge and swear to abide by the Constitution and bylaws.

[Question] Does this mean that a state of siege declaration would not be ruled out if the current crisis worsens?

[Arriaga] The Constitution stipulates the situations when the state of siege can be declared. If this crisis worsens, the government might make this decision.

[Question] Will constitutional order be broken?

[Arriaga] There is no justification for breaking the constitutional order. So far, there have been only violations of the Constitution.

[Question] Wouldn't a state of siege declaration be a coup against the civilian government headed by Suazo Cordoba?

[Arriaga] No, because the Constitution rules to the contrary.

[Question] Do you have a calming message?

[Arriaga] Yes, it is very important for the people to keep calm. Speculation of all kinds will abound. There will surely be plenty of reports and rumors that can distort the truth about what is going on. But this by itself cannot worsen the crisis.

For this reason, people should keep calm. The president will address the Honduran people on the situation so that people can rest assured that the government abides by law.

In addition, the government does not want to worsen the crisis. Quite the contrary, it is making efforts to resolve this situation so that we can continue enjoying a democratic government system in peace, safety, and tranquillity for the Honduran people.

[Question] At what time will Dr Suazo deliver his message?

[Arriaga] I can't tell because it is still being readied. We have to await the latest decisions of the National Congress.

Government Endorses Court

PA290148 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 0056 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Communique issued by the government on 28 March in Tegucigalpa]

[Text] The Finance and Public Credit Secretariat reports to the Honduran people that in compliance with specific orders given by Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova, constitutional president of the Republic, the following measures have been taken:

1. The Finance and Public Credit Secretariat will only accept and proceed to pay requisitions from the legally appointed Supreme Court of Justice, whose chief justice is Carlos Manuel Arita Palomo.

2. Therefore, any other person or institution must abstain from trying to carry out behalf of the Supreme Court of Justice, any payment order not approved by the corresponding authorities.

Manuel Antonio Fontecha, finance and public credit secretary.

Congress Reshuffles Court

PA291318 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0712 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 29 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- In the early morning hours, the Honduran National Congress reshuffled the Supreme Court of Justice and appointed a new chief justice, four permanent justices, and four of the seven alternates. The new Supreme Court of Justice members have been summoned to the headquarters of the legislative chamber at 1100 today to be sworn in.

Here is a list of the new Supreme Court justices. Ramon Valladares Soto is the new chief justice; Martin Alvarado Echeverria, Miguel Angel Rivera Portillo, Domingo Vasquez, and Orlando Lozano Martinez are the permanent justices; and Jose Fernandez Guzman, Lisandro Deras Arevalo, Saul Munoz Orellana and Teovaldo Suazo Enamorado are the alternate justices. These new justices will replace those appointed in 1981. Their names are: Carlos Manuel Arita Palomo, who was the chief justice; Marco Tulio Castillo Santos, Aroldo Lopez Herrera, Jorge Reyes Diaz, and Luis Mendoza Fugon, who were the permanent justices; and Rosendo Contreras, Martin Alvarado Echeverria, Ismael Zapata Rosa, and Jose A. Sagastume, who were the alternate justices.

Suazo's Message

PA291336 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 0638 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Message to the nation by President Roberto Suazo Cordova; date, place not given -- recorded]

[Text] Honduran people: Today the National Congress, in an action promoted by certain deputies who place their personal interests before the nation's, obviously, violated the Constitution of the Republic when it dismissed Supreme Court justices chosen by the legislative branch for a 4-year constitutional term. The action I refer to is one of the most negative expressions to date of the conflict among branches, promoted by certain deputies moved by a clearly sectarian ambition for power that endangers the integrity and permanence of the republican institutions.

When I assumed office on 27 January 1982 as a result of free and honest elections, in which the Honduran people decided their destiny with their right to their own sovereignty, I took an oath of honor. I pledged to fulfill and enforce the Constitution and the laws. I would be dashing the hopes of the Honduran people, betraying their main interests, and ignoring the historical struggles of the creators of our nation if I did not fulfill this sacred oath, which is part of my duty as a citizen and my conscience as a ruler.

If certain irregularities were observed in the administration of justice, then the procedure to be followed should have been a trial, with presentation of pertinent evidence to make appropriate corrections, but there was a violation of the Constitution, which must be respected and complied with. In this regard, the only legitimate Supreme Court of Justice is the one which was legally elected and which is headed by lawyer Carlos Manuel Arita Palomo.

In the face of the constitutional violation I noted, the abrogation of the people's sovereignty, and the usurpation of power committed by deputies who have answered with scorn the will of the people who elected them through sacrifices and hope, I must exercise necessary constitutional duties to enforce the Constitution, direct the general policy of the state, keep the Republic's independence and honor safe, and maintain peace and security in Honduras.

By assuming this historical responsibility, I am merely being a loyal interpreter of the wishes of the Honduran people who, with zeal and perseverance, want to live in freedom to build a present of national dignity and a future that fills our Honduras with pride. There is proof of my efforts to help solve the crisis posed by the legislative branch with regard to the judicial branch. My calls were not heeded. My petitions were ignored. My efforts to help find a satisfactory solution received insult and deception in response.

Despite all this, it is the duty of all, leaders and people, to continue promoting a dialogue for national understanding leading to strengthening the institutions of the Republic and consolidation of democracy. We will continue devoting our efforts to this purpose, because the complex situation that has emerged can easily be used by internal and external enemies who advocate the establishment of totalitarian regimes that reject human dignity. Those who violated the Constitution of the Republic are being accomplices to and protagonists in this treacherous plot which we trust will be overcome with the necessary understanding and which will be judged objectively by history.

The National Security Council met for several hours today. We discussed frankly and respectfully vital matters for the survival and the ennoblement of the Honduran state. We were discussing issues of national and international interest when members of the legislative branch were committing this outrageous violation of the Constitution. The National Security Council fully endorsed the steps that must be taken within the framework of that which is prescribed in the Constitution, without committing any abuses but with the necessary firmness so that the precepts of the Honduran magna carta will not continue to be the object of ridicule.

It is under these circumstances that I presented to Brigadier General Walter Lopez Reyes, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, a message with instructions geared to maintaining respect for the Constitution, the implementation of the democratic system, and to guarantee public order for all the sectors of Honduran society. The Armed Forces, which is a source of pride for our country, reaffirmed in a categorical manner, through its ranking representatives in the National Security Council, its firm support for the constitutional regime that I preside over by the people's decision, freely expressed with their votes.

There is a constructive convergence of criteria and willingness in the government that I preside over and in the Armed Forces to strengthen the electoral process and affirm the democratic way of life and government that exists in our country. The serious events that have taken place will in no way be obstacles to the institutional phase leading to the election of authorities of various structures in our country. On the contrary, these events should make us all reflect, without any distinctions, on the need to increase our confidence in democracy as the government system that will best meet our needs and the people's expectations in the development of the human race. These incidents must lead us to believe that democracy, within the framework of a de jure system, must be increasingly preserved, without sectarianism, absolutism, false prophets of local politics, or desperate ambitions. A deep conviction to work for Honduras' overcoming difficulties and defying vicissitudes must prevail in all Hondurans. The people, who we work for, should remain calm. The international community notes our determination to safeguard our constitutional and democratic regime. Those who have betrayed the Constitution that regulates the coexistence of Hondurans and who have also betrayed the ideals of the majority must know that we will move on, armed by the law, for the benefit of our people and the Republic.

Let Hondurans express without fear their concerns and wishes. Let the various sectors continue to contribute to the people's welfare and the country's economic improvement. Let the political parties, as a bulwark of democracy, grow, become stronger, and solve on their own their problems, and let us hope they will not take their internal differences to a branch of the government which, as the legislative branch, must be an example of institutional responsibility and civilized discussions. With a profound Christian devotion, we are with God and God is with us. God, the supreme creator of the universe, is blinding those he wants to be rid of. Thank you, Honduran people.

SUAZO, MILITARY DISCUSS NICARAGUA BORDER INCIDENTS

PA271518 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0130 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Text] The officers of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff met with President Roberto Suazo Cordova at the government palace for several hours today. It was reported that the meeting was prompted by armed incidents that have occurred recently in the Nicaraguan border areas of El Paraiso and Choluteca Departments. It was also indicated that the meeting with commanders of the military branches and the military leadership was prompted by internal changes that will be made in the next few days. The Public Security Forces Commander Colonel Roberto Martinez Avila, Navy Commander Colonel Humberto Regalado Hernandez, Air Force Commander Colonel Francisco Zepeda Andino, Colonel Efrain Gonzalez, chief of the Joint General Staff; Army Commander Colonel Guillermo Truman Gordon, and Armed Forces Commander General Walter Lopez Reyes participated in the meeting with the president.

NICARAGUA

OAS ENVOY RESPONDS TO U.S. ON CONTADORA DOCUMENT

PA280423 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Washington -- During a lengthy response before the OAS, Edgar Parrales, Nicaraguan ambassador to the OAS, said that U.S. statements before this organization showed the lack of credibility and support it gives to the Contadora process.

The Nicaraguan diplomat said that the Contadora Document is a peace initiative that understands the problems of the region and that Washington's repeated statement about resorting to the OAS is a veiled threat. At the same time, it intimates that the Contadora Group will fail. Parrales described the United States' current policy as stubborn and foolish, adding that it hinders reaching an understanding within the Contadora process. He added that the real sticking point is that Nicaragua's problem is with the United States and not with neighboring Central American countries. Parrales added that President Ronald Reagan recently disclosed the real motives behind U.S. support to the counterrevolutionary bands when he admitted that his sole objective is the overthrow of the Sandinists. This is why Nicaragua has every right to arm itself to defend its achievements, Parrales said. He also invited U.S. congressmen to visit Nicaragua to witness the aggression Nicaragua is suffering.

PSC HEAD ON ORTEGA ROLE IN NEW CONSTITUTION

PA272018 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Mar 85 pp 1, 10

[Excerpt] If President Daniel Ortega dictates the wording of the constitution, this will constitute further proof that the FSLN does not intend to allow political pluralism, Agustin Jarquin Anaya, president of the Nicaraguan Social Christian Party [PSC], said.

The move will attempt to legalize the imposition of an almighty executive branch, which will exert a great deal of influence on the drafting of the constitution, Jarquin Anaya protested. This is dangerous because it implies that one person, not a party or group, will impose his will and dictate the laws that govern Nicaragua, he warned.

LA PRENSA asked Jarquin Anaya: What makes a constitution democratic?

He answered: Basically, the constitution must have the following characteristics: First, it should guarantee political pluralism. By this I mean that it should not limit itself to guaranteeing the existence of groups with various ideologies, but should allow citizens to join and participate in those groups freely and without pressure. Second, it should guarantee and promote respect for human rights, and guarantee the independence of the three branches of government: executive, legislative, and judicial. This will ensure a balance of power and prevent the concentration of power in any one person, a trait of dictatorial regimes. Third, it should guarantee the country's sovereignty and defense, not favoring any particular segment of society but Nicaraguans in general.

MAP REJECTS CHURCH MEDIATION IN DIALOGUE

PA271718 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Text] The Marxist-Leninist Popular Action Party, MAP, is the first party to voice opposition to a possible mediation by the Episcopal Conference in a dialogue between the government, the political opposition outside the government, and counterrevolutionary groups. Spokesmen for the organization said that the Catholic hierarchy cannot mediate in a possible dialogue because it has interests in the conflict.

REPORTAGE ON RAUL CASTRO'S VISIT TO SOVIET UNION

For reportage on the visit to the Soviet Union by FAR Minister and First Vice President of the Council of State Raul Castro, including his visits to Tajikistan and Volgograd, see the Latin America & Caribbean section of the 29 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

UN DELEGATE CALLS FOR END TO SPACE MILITARIZATION

FL262346 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Cuba today called for elaborating legal measures to avoid militarizing space at the United Nations. Cuban delegate Rosa (Diagui) spoke before the UN subcommittee on legal affairs in space [as heard] and asked that space weapons be banned.

AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH SPAIN ON CREDIT LINES

FL281316 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Two technical banking agreements regulating the concession of two lines of credit to the National Bank of Cuba by the Spanish Official Credit Institute have been signed in Havana. Raul Amado-Blanco and Jose Lebredo, vice president and director, respectively, of the National Bank of Cuba, signed the agreement for Cuba and Julian Garcia Vargas, president of the Official Credit Institute, signed for Spain.

The lines of credit granted to Cuba by the institute will be used for the acquisition of Spanish products having to do with education and the shipping industry.

RISQUET MEETS CONGOLESE MINISTER OF FORESTRY

FL280110 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, Politburo and Secretariat member of the party Central Committee, met this afternoon with Congolese Minister of Forestry Henri Djombo, member of the Central Committee of the Congolese Labor Party. Djombo is on a working trip to Cuba.

FMC DELEGATION ATTENDS SDAR WOMEN'S CONGRESS

FL270135 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Text] A delegation from the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC] today ended a visit to the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] after participating in activities of the SDAR's Union of Women's first congress.

The delgation, headed by Solia Herrera, member of the FMC's national secretariat, and Elena Perez, national committee member, meet with SDAR President Muhammad 'Abd al-'Aziz.

BRAZILIAN CONGRESS CONSIDERS RESUMING RELATIONS

FL281834 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1433 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] The Foreign Relations Committee of the Brazilian Congress has unanimously approved a bill recommending to that country's parliament that diplomatic relations be reestablished with Cuba. The bill, presented by Deputy Marcio Santilli of the governing party, the Brazilian Democratic Movement, was well received even by the opposition Social Democratic Party.

The bill will now follow the normal course; that is, it will be examined by the full Congress which will finally present it for the consideration of the head of state.

The Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs received the congressional bill as a natural development because it was on the order of the day, according to Minister of Foreign Affairs Olavo Setuval.

TELEVISION COMMENTATORS DISCUSS CENTRAL AMERICA

FL271830 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1150 GMT 27 Mar 85

[International commentary by Alicia (Cascaret) and Jesus Suarez, on the "Revista de la Manana" program -- live]

[Excerpts] [(Cascaret)] We are going to deal with the situation in Central America, specifically with Nicaragua and El Salvador. In his zeal to justify the U.S. presence in Central America and impede Nicaragua's policy of dialogue, U.S. President Ronald Reagan, at an audience he granted to anticommunist Latin Americans, once again stated that the USSR and Cuba are encouraging the purported instability of the region. This audience fell within the framework [words indistinct] in Washington to get the Congress to approve $14 million in aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. But pressure on Nicaragua is not being exerted in this way alone; as you know, economic pressure has been applied, and one of the most recent examples is the pressure exerted by the United States on the IBD. On this occasion, Nicaragua found it had to request a credit of 58 million pesos to finance small- and medium-sized enterprises and resolve problems in the production of basic foods for internal consumption.

There is in existence an eloquent letter that will keep the United States from issuing any kind of denial; this is the letter that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz sent the IDB so it would not grant the credit requested by the Nicaraguan Government.

[Suarez] It must be said that at this moment the United States is initiating a diplomatic, political, military, and economic offensive against Nicaragua, and this offensive is part of its interventionist policy in Central America. This offensive is not a coincidence but rather takes place at a time when, in the next few days, the U.S. Congress will have to debate the approval of another $14 million for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. What does the U.S. Government seek with all this? It seeks to try to deceive U.S. public opinion once again so these funds will be approved and its war against the Nicaraguan people will be legalized. This policy is extremely dangerous, especially now that another meeting of the Contadora Group has been scheduled for April.

The U.S. Government is once again demonstrating its lack of respect for international law because it is attacking a country with which it has relations. This violates all international legal norms, but the Reagan government doesn't care at all. It is necessary to say as an antecedent to all this, in the past few weeks, there have been several statements by top U.S. leaders: Mr Reagan, Secretary of State George Shultz, and U.S. Vice President George Bush have rejected all Nicaraguan initiatives to seek a negotiated solution to the Central American problem. I said earlier that at this moment the United States is making an effort to influence public opinion. At this moment, U.S. broadcasters and print press are carrying out an intense campaign to discredit with old hackneyed charges presented as the truth about the persecution of the church in Nicaragua and about arrests, all in an attempt to convince the American people that Reagan's interventionist policy is based on convincing criteria. [sentence as heard] This is nothing new in U.S. politics. We can present the example of Grenada on how U.S. public opinion was deceived to gain approval for intervention in Grenada.

In this case, [words indistinct] much more explicit. In recent statements, he has called for the overthrow of the Sandinist government if it does not change its political system. This does not require any other comment. That is, he gives himself the right to decide the destiny of the Nicaraguan people. In summary, this is the U.S. strategy to isolate Nicaragua through the action of the counterrevolutionary bands and an economic blockade in its attempts to overthrow the Sandinist government. This is the strategy, and it is very clear regarding its bid to overthrow the Sandinists. As long as the United States is convinced it can overthrow the Nicaraguan Government, it will not condemn its policy and try to cut off all dialogue.

[(Cascaret)] I would like to tell our television audience briefly that this Sunday 60 seats in the Salvadoran legislature and 262 positions of mayor in the entire country will be filled by elections. The elections, because of the characteristics they have always had in El Salvador, have been described as an electoral farce, and do not include the parties of the left. The situation of Salvadoran workers is very difficult: [words indistinct] by 114 percent, and the price of basic foods has increased 130 percent. This gives some idea of what is going to happen. In a communique issued yesterday, the guerrillas stated their view of the situation existing in this country. I believe that in the next few days it will be necessary to comment on this electoral farce in El Salvador.

VEIGA OPENS ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FL272002 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1821 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Text] This meeting will mark a milestone in the fight against our common enemy, the power of big capital and monopolies, and will contribute to strengthening the struggle for democracy, social progress, and the supreme cause of freedom and peace, Roberto Veiga Menendez, secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] and alternate Politburo member, said on inaugurating the 37th meeting of the administrative committee of the International Union of Food Industry Workers and affiliates today in Havana. The meeting is being held at a time of great importance for the workers in this sector in their struggle against imperialism and exploitation, Veiga underscored.

Of utmost importance now, he added, is increasing the solidarity of the world union movement's class struggle for their just vindication, rights, and aspirations.

We thank the International Union of Trade Unions [UIS] for its solidarity with Cuba over these past 26 years in which our people have resolutely faced imperialism's hostility and aggressions, he underscored. The CTC secretary general added that UIS work has been guided by the ideas and agreements issued from the 10th congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions held in Cuba in 1982.

The fact that our country was chosen for the second time as the site for the 37th food industry workers administrative committee's meeting honors and further obligates us to the struggle we are carrying out, Veiga underscored. It is the world movement of the masses that has contributed to curbing the warlike actions and designs of U.S. imperialists, said the CTC secretary general.

The 37th meeting of the administrative committee of the International Union of the Food Industry Workers and affiliates will study this organization's work over the past 12 months. The meeting, which will meet all day today at the Hotel Atlantico in Santa Maria del Mar, will approve four resolutions.

One is to commemorate the anniversary of the victory over Hilter's fascism and Japan's militarism, and another on the 40th anniversary of the founding of the World Federation of Trade Unions. The meeting will also approve a resolution supporting the 12th world youth and student festival, and another supporting solidarity with Cuba and the Central American and Caribbean nations.

Starting Monday at the Hotel Atlantico, the third Latin American Food Workers conference will open which has as its main topic the work of transnationals in the region.

NONALIGNED COUNTRIES HEALTH COORDINATORS MEET

FL261840 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Today the ninth meeting of public health coordinators of countries of the Nonaligned Movement began in Havana's Palace of Conventions, where it will continue until 28 March. Attending this meeting are Afghanistan, Mozambique, DPRK, India, Yugoslavia, and Cuba, in addition to other interested countries and national liberation movements.

(Prem Pakrash), (?Indian) vice minister of health, underscored at the opening the need for all countries to offer a minimum level of medical care because to do so guarantees optimum production possibilities and greater development.

Cuban Minister of Public Health Dr Sergio del Valle spoke of the medical, nutritional, and health assistance that most African countries need. He also spoke of the need for greater cooperation between the developing countries to achieve health for everyone by the year 2000.

Del Valle on Aid to Africa

FL271628 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Text] Dr Sergio del Valle, minister of public health, said yesterday at the opening of the ninth meeting of public health ministers of the nonaligned countries that Cuba believes food, medical, and health aid to the brother peoples of Africa should be quick and free. He said millions of human begins of all ages throughout large regions of Africa face death if they do not receive prompt and adequate aid.

Sergio del Valle stressed that the voice of the nonaligned countries should be raised loudly and urgently on this matter. He added that he was happly to greet all participants on behalf of the Cuban Government and President Fidel Castro.

RECORD AMOUNT OF LAND IRRIGATED IN 1984

FL271902 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 27 Mar 85

[Text] More than 220,000 caballerias were irrigated in the country during 1984. That is a record and exceeds the figure for 1983 by 30 percent. This was announced at the Havana municipality of Guira de Melena, site of the second national plenum on the irrigation and drainage emulation drive.

EVIDENCE OF CONSPIRACY PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT

FL281348 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] The president of the Republic met yesterday with the commanding officers of the Armed Forces and National Police because of evidence of a conspiracy against the constitutional government. The persons in charge of various [word indistinct] departments of the government participated in the meeting, which was called to devise a strategy to cope with possible alterations of the public order. A reliable source has told Radio Mil that the information obtained by the security forces is so serious that it (?made necessary) the drawing up of a strategy by the authorities. The information presented to President Jorge Blanco as evidence of a vast conspiracy against the government includes the hijacking of vehicles by students of the state university, drug trafficking to finance conspiratorial groups, and the intensification of contraband [passage indistinct].

PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES CREDIT FROM MEXICO

FL252040 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 17 Mar 85 pp 1, 13

[By Jose Romero]

[Text] President Salvador Jorge Blanco yesterday announced Mexico has granted credit amounting to U.S. $23 million to the Dominican Republic which will allow the Central Bank to cover emergency commitments. Yesterday, the head of state called journalists to his office, to report that the Dominican Government had received a telex with the approval addressed to Hugo Guiliani Cury, Central Bank governor.

Jorge Blanco praised the cooperation Mexico has been giving the country and said this shows, once more, Mexico's solidarity and the confidence it has in the Dominican Republic Government. He said this credit will by payed by the Dominican Republic as soon as it receives "standby" payments from the IMF scheduled for April.

He pointed out that the country will now fulfill commitments with the IMF itself for the loans received in 1982 because of the fall in sugar prices. The president said this loan will allow the central bank to maintain the availability of adequate levels of foreign currency. He also said Mexico has given assistance to the country in the renegotiation of the foreign debt. He said that contacts have already begun, through specialists' and that they have been very valuable.

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES APPROVES NEW BUDGET

FL192005 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 15 Mar 85 pp 1, 12

[Excerpt] Almost 4 months after getting it to Congress via the Senate of the Republic, the budget was finally approved yesterday by the Chamber of Deputies.

The bill was approved with changes made by the Senate, which reduced RD131 million pesos from the original amount leaving it at RD1,374,500,000 pesos.

BOUTERSE ON MEETING WITH VAN DEN BROEK IN BRAZIL

PM261035 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 19 Mar 85 p 5

[Interview with Army Commander Desi Bouterse by Marlise Simons: "Bouterse Happy With 'New Dialogue'"]

[Text] Brasilia, 19 Mar -- Surinamese Army Commander Desi Bouterse is pleased with the "new dialogue" with the Netherlands Government, but he does not expect the contacts with The Hague, described by him as improved, to lead quickly to the resumption of Netherlands development aid to Suriname. Bouterse said this in an interview after his talks in Brasilia with Netherlands Foreign Minister Van den Broek. The army leader did not wish to comment on whether the new "dialogue" with the Netherlands will lead to an acceleration of the democratization process in Suriname. The Hague has always pressed for concrete steps in the direction of restoration of democracy and correct legal procedure as conditions for the restoration of aid.

Last Friday evening [15 March] Bouterse talked with Foreign Minister Van den Broek for more than an hour. Both were in the Brazilian capital for the swearing-in of the new Brazilian president. Their talks were the first contact between a Dutch minister and Army Commander Bouterse since December 1982. The two sides said that their meeting was arranged "at the request of third parties," obviously referring to Brazil.

Bouterse and other members of the Surinamese delegation, including Surinamese Chief of Staff Iwan Graanoogst and Henk Herrenberg, the head of Bouterse's cabinet, were clearly elated over the improved contacts with the Netherlands. "We think that a dialogue must be possible because we have diplomatic relations. I am happy that a realization has been reached on this point," Bouterse said. The army leader, dressed in a pinstripe suit and wearing dark glasses, spoke in his hotel suite about various diplomatic agreements.

Like Minister Van den Broek, he confirmed that no agreement for a continuation of ministerial contacts was reached but that contacts will occur for the time being through the two countries' embassies. The army leader hinted that no concrete decisions have been made and that he believes that the process of rapprochement will take place neither rapidly nor straightforwardly.

"I think that we must begin to respect ech other's position and use that as a common point of departure," he said. "I do not believe that we should think at present of the direct resumption of development aid. I think that that is a question to be put aside for the time being."

Asked whether the dialogue with the Netherlands would lead to an acceleration of the democratization process, Bouterse said, "We have reached agreement with three groups -- commerce and industry, the military, and the trade unions -- and we will create the structure for this, but we must take account of the physical situation at home."

In the recently published report by Kenyan lawyer Amos Wako it was stated that the fifteen critics of the Bouterse regime who died 8 December were executed summarily. Asked what influence this report has had on human rights policy in Suriname, Bouterse said: "We have adopted certain internal measures; we have agreements with the United Nations and we are living up to them. We have invited the OAS; we have also invited Wako. When things have progressed far enough, we will again invite Wako to carry out his work."

Bouterse also suggested that the reason for the recent murders in Rijswijl [in the Netherlands], in the building in which the Surinamese Liberation Council has its premises, is to be found in the internal conflicts among his opponents.

"I have no direct insight into what exactly happened," he said. "I find the whole thing most regrettable, and I naturally hope that such things will not be repeated. What I can surmise is that this is something about which I have always warned the Netherlands -- that it should do everything to avoid giving persons and organizations an opportunity to work from Netherlands territory against any friendly nation, because this can have a boomerang effect. I know that certain persons in the Netherlands who are opposed to our government are protected and accommodated by the authorities in all sorts of ways. The danger is that this will turn out for the worse. I do not know what the reason for the murders was, since I have no contact with people who would carry out such acts. The people with whom I am in contact and about whom the Netherlands knows were, I believe, in Suriname at the time of this incident."

The Surinamese delegation has made great use of the festivities in Brasilia to engage in intensive diplomacy and to try to break Paramaribo's relative isolation. Bouterse has held private talks with the presidents of Argentina, Uruguay, and Nicaragua, among others, and met with the foreign ministers of Libya, Colombia, and Brazil.

"We want to integrate ourselves into the region," Bouterse said, adding that with Colombia there is "a legion of possibilities" for cooperation, while with Brazil relations and cooperation "are already going very well." For example, Brazil is involved in the modernization of the telephone and communications networks in Suriname, training technicians, and supplying transport materials. Suriname is delivering bauxite and bauxite derivatives to Brazil, Bouterse said.

On the subject of his visit to Libya earlier this month the army leader said: "We went of course for economic reasons. Things were formally settled and verbally promised," Bouterse said. "It is not a question of loans to us, but of finding opportunities to stand on our own feet." One possibility, he said, was a Libyan-Surinamese oil exploration project, "in which both sides would invest $15 million." The idea is "to cut back our gas imports to 10 to 15 percent. Energy represents almost 25 percent of the Surinamese import bill," Bouterse said. Bouterse said that negotiations have not yet started with Washington on restoring the suspended U.S. aid. He said that he shook hands with U.S. Vice President George Bush but did not talk with him for any length of time. "Recently we have had no direct problems with the United States, but the fact that the suspended aid has not been resumed naturally throws a distorted light on our relations," Bouterse said. "Again there is trading activity, and again money is being given. But we are not running after U.S. development aid."

ECUADOR

CONGRESS DEBATES PRESIDENT'S WAGE BILL

PA272344 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Mar 85

[By Felix Naravaez]

[Excerpt] There have been several major developments in the country's political and legislative activities. At this moment plenary sessions of the permanent congressional committees have been convened to discuss the urgent bill which the president of the Republic recently submitted in light of the urgent economic need to raise the minimum wage to 10,000 sucres as of January 1986.

Deputies belonging to the Progressive [Progressive Democratic Front] block, which comprises the antigovernment opposition in Congress, and especially Deputy [name indistinct] are broadly debating the issue. It is worth noting that the legislative plenary session is comprised of 28 deputies, 24 of whom belong to the political opposition. Only Deputies Camilo Ponce and Ignacio Zambrano are attempting, without success, to present the government's stance on handling the bills and especially this urgent proposal from the president. Regarding the presidential bill, the minority progovernment faction's request that the president of the Republic or another government official participate in the debates on the urgent wage bill will probably be rejected. The plenary sessions of the congressional committee are discussing today. As we have stated, the opposition in these committees far outnumbers the National Reconstruction Front bloc.

Meanwhile, there are some groups of demonstrators outside the legislative building. These groups may have come from the street demonstrations staged this afternoon, which also marched near the National Congress. Some of these groups marched toward the center of the city. Public security forces have been seen using tear gas to break up the demonstrations which have gained strength during the afternoon.

Meanwhile, also this afternoon, former President Osvalo Hurtado called a press conference during which he made some statements which National Reconstruction Front members have labeled as reckless.

VENEZUELA

UN SPECIAL ENVOY HOLDS TALKS ON ESSEQUIBO

FL231834 Bridgetown CANA in English 1725 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Caracas, March 23, CANA-REUTER -- Some progress has been made in a round of talks with Guyana and neighbouring Venezuela on their century-old territorial dispute, United Nations special envoy Diego Cordovez said here. There has been a very constructive advance in the provision of the sort of information and antecedents which we need at this moment, Cordovez told reporters after a third and final meeting with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Consalvi. The information gathered here and in Georgetown earlier this week would enable UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to decide on a formula for solving the dispute, he said.

No details of the talks were given.

Venezuela is claiming the 53,000-square-mile (140,000 sq-km) mineral-rich Essequibo region, nearly two-thirds of Guyana. The area was awarded to Britain by international aribtration in 1899, but Venezuela disputes the ruling. Guyana and Venezuela have invited the UN head to designate a procedure for settling the dispute.